

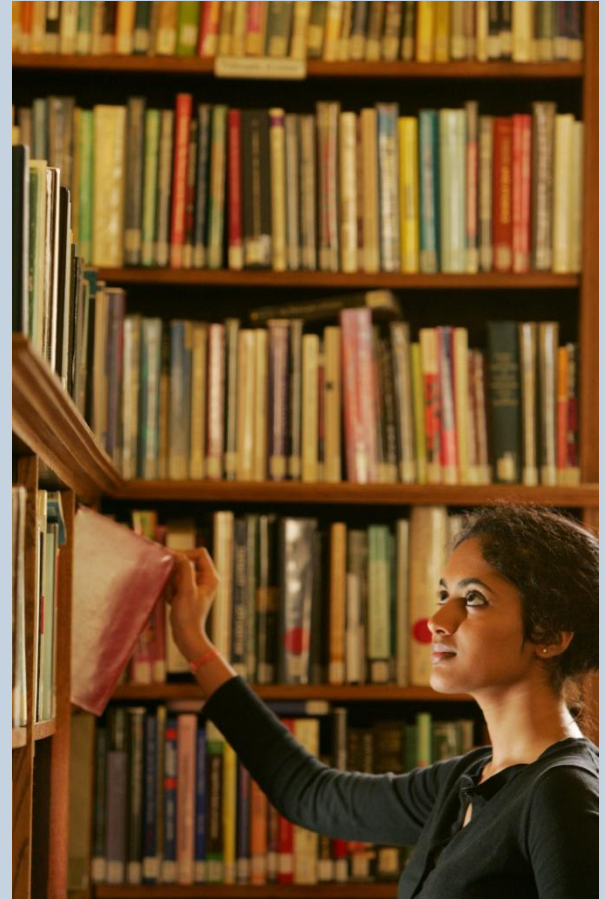
# University of Oxford

The competitive nature of Oxford



# Introduction

- Competitiveness of our courses for an international applicant
- Success rates
- Entrance requirements
- Key dates
- UCAS
- Tests and written work
- Shortlisting and interviews
- What are we looking for?



# Competition for International Students

- All courses at Oxford are highly selective
- Success rates for 2012 entry
  - Average - 20% i.e. 5 applicants per place
  - Outside the UK - 11.8%
  - EU - 11.1%
  - Non EU – 12.2%

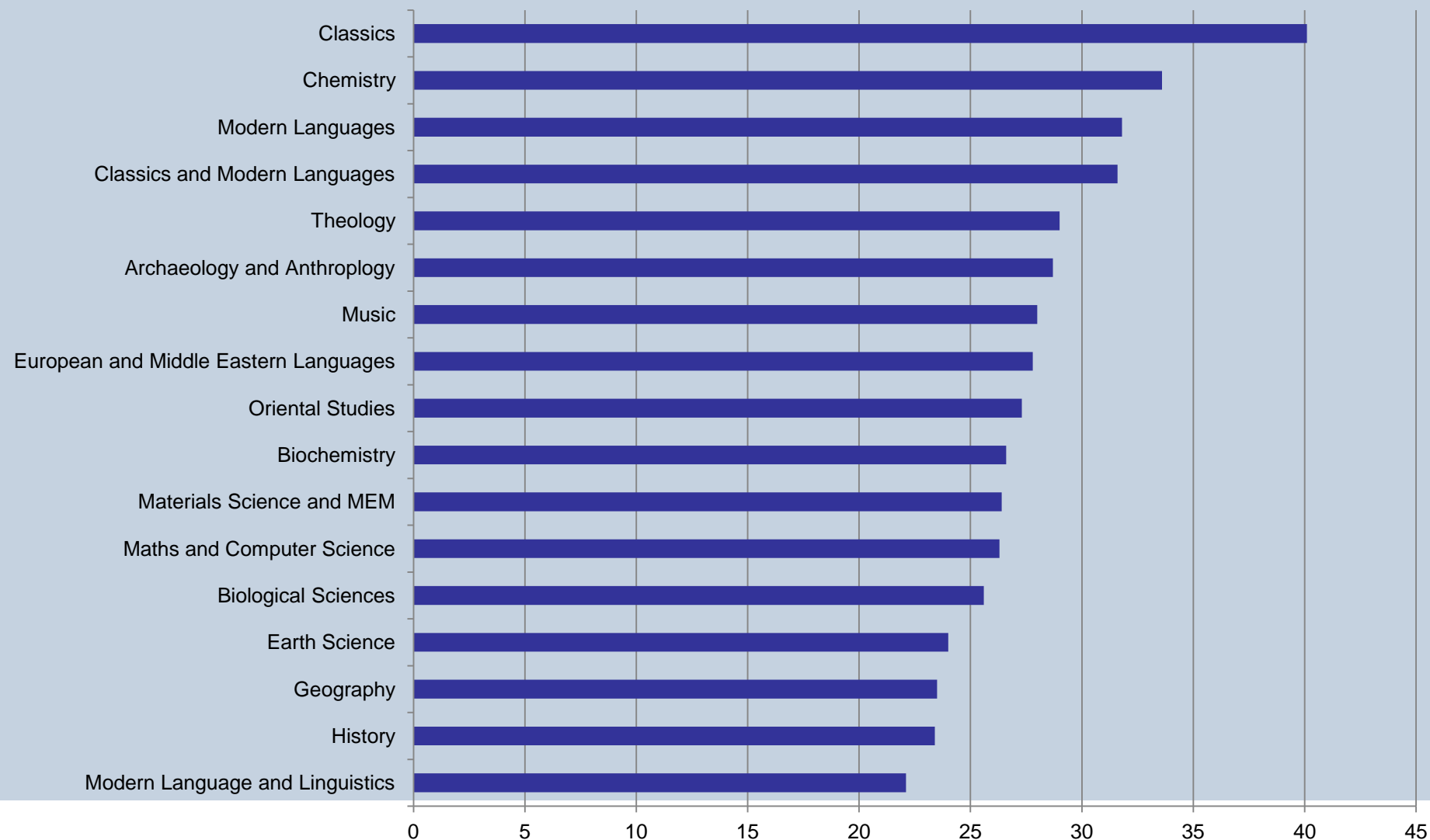
Why are the success rates lower for non UK students?

- Oxford Quotas?
  - No, we only have one course that has a quota for non-EU students
  - Like all UK HEIs medicine has a government imposed quota of 14 International students
- Clustering around the most competitive subjects?
  - Possibly...

# Over 50% of all applications from students outside the UK were for five of our most competitive courses

Subject	% of all overseas applicants	Cumulative % of all overseas applicants	Overall Success rate	Success rate for students outside the UK
PPE	16%	16%	14.8%	7.9%
Economics and Management	11.2%	27.2%	8.2%	3.1%
Law	11.2%	38.4%	16.5%	9.5%
Medicine	7.6%	46%	10.2%	2.2%
Maths	4.2%	50.2%	15.3%	24%

# Overall Highest Success Rates



# Overall Lowest Success Rates



# Entrance Requirements

- As the application procedure is so competitive, even excellent grades will not guarantee a place at Oxford
- Specific subjects may be required for some courses
- Extra curricular activities are not taken into account - Purely academic criteria



# Entrance Requirements

- All entry requirements can be found at [www.admissions.ox.ac.uk/international-students](http://www.admissions.ox.ac.uk/international-students)
- A\*A\*A/ A\*AA/ AAA at A-level
- 38-40 in the IB (6s / 7s in Higher level)
- SAT Reasoning Test with at least 1,400 in Critical Reading and Mathematics and preferably also 700 or more in Writing, giving a combined score of at least 2,100

**OR**

ACT with a score of at least 32 out of 36.

**AND**

Grade 5 in three or more Advanced Placement Tests in appropriate subjects

**OR**

700 or better at SAT Subject Tests in three or more appropriate subjects



# Predicted grades

- Expected results for exams and qualifications that will be taken *after* application to Oxford (15 October)
- What do you expect the student to realistically achieve in their exams or high school qualification
- Predicted grades section on the UCAS form
- Can be placed in the reference body if necessary
- Over-predictions

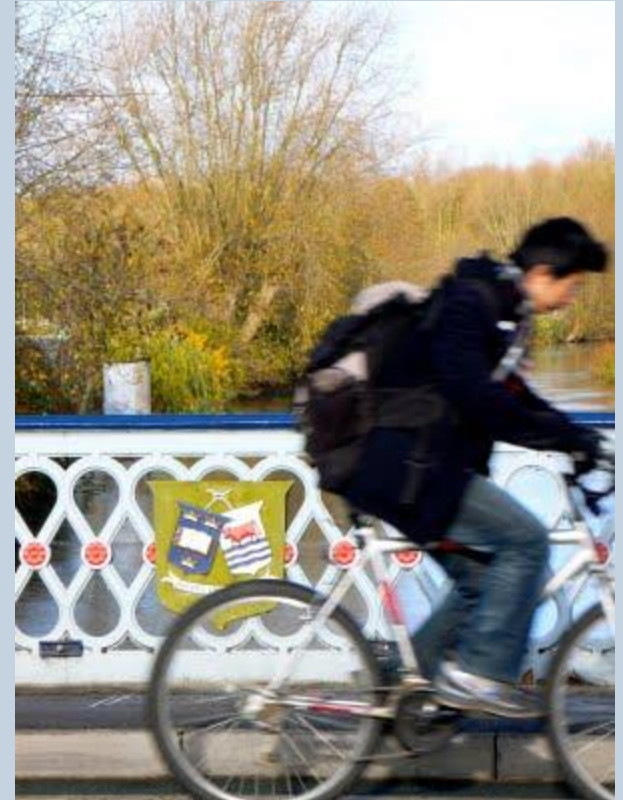
# Key dates – Final year

October 15 <sup>th</sup>	UCAS Deadline for Oxford
November 7 <sup>th</sup>	Pre-interview admissions tests
November 10 <sup>th</sup>	Written work submitted
Late Nov/Dec	Invitations to Interview sent
December	Interviews in Oxford or by Skype
January	Candidates notified of decisions



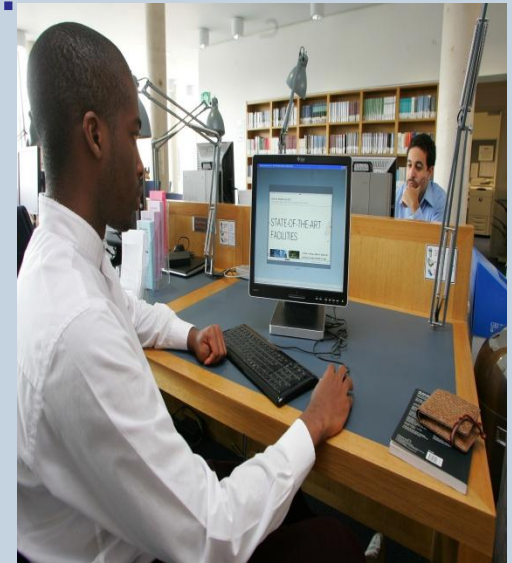
# What is considered?

- Prior academic achievement
- Predicted grades
- UCAS Personal Statement
- UCAS Teacher's reference
- Pre-Interview tests (where applicable)
- Written work (where applicable)
- Written tests at interview (where applicable)
- Interview(s)



# What do we look for in applicants?

- They have chosen a subject that truly engages them
- We offer it in a form appropriate to their interest and aptitude
- They have a strong record in examinations
- They are very strongly backed by school/college
- They have the potential to succeed at the highest academic level in Oxford
- Vocational commitment (where appropriate)



# UCAS

- UCAS – Universities and Colleges Admissions Service
  - Process all applications to all UK Universities
- Apply entirely online [www.ucas.com/apply](https://www.ucas.com/apply)
- One form that allows students to apply for up to 5 different courses at 5 different Universities
- At the first stage of application this is blind and not in preferential order

# Tests and Written Work

- Around 80% of Oxford applicants are now required to sit a pre-interview test
- Check for each course at [www.admissions.ox.ac.uk/tests](http://www.admissions.ox.ac.uk/tests)
  - Both the school (as a test centre) and the candidate (as an examinee) need to be registered in advance
  - Encourage students to do some preparation (such as past papers), but not *too* much
- Tests at interview for some subjects
- Written work required for some subjects

# Types of test

## Skills:

- Application of current academic knowledge
- Interpretation of data or argument
- Critical thinking
- Comprehension
- Essay writing
- Response to new material

## Method:

- Multiple choice
- Short answer questions
- Essays





# Shortlisting

- Resources concentrated on those with strong chance
- Interviews at two or more colleges common if interviewed in Oxford
- Interviewed by one college if via Skype
- Almost always by academics from chosen discipline
- Overall students shortlisted for interview
  - Medicine - 30.1%
  - Law - 40.1%
  - English & History - 60.2%
  - Biochemistry - 83.3%
  - Theology - 80.2%
  - Politics, Philosophy & Economics - 45.9%
  - Maths & Computer Science - 66.3%



# Interviews

- 70% of applicants are invited to interview in December
- Usually applicants will be informed 7 to 10 days in advance
- Medicine and EU applicants must be interviewed in Oxford
- Everyone else can be interviewed by Skype

or

Come to Oxford

- Normally with 2 academic tutors
- Usually 20 – 30 minutes each
- Free accommodation and food provided in first choice (or allocated) college



# And After?

- One applicant in five receives an offer, but ...
- We could happily take many more of our applicants were places available
- Competition is tough and our decisions are very difficult to make
- Feedback
- Not receiving an offer is not the end of the world!

# Contact details

- Dedicated Admissions Enquiries Centre
- Open 9 am – 5 pm Monday - Friday
- + 44 (0)1865 288000
- [liaison@admin.ox.ac.uk](mailto:liaison@admin.ox.ac.uk)
- [undergraduate.admissions@admin.ox.ac.uk](mailto:undergraduate.admissions@admin.ox.ac.uk)

[www.admissions.ox.ac.uk](http://www.admissions.ox.ac.uk)